Mr. M. S. PUTTARAMA SETTY.—With reference to answer to sub-section (*h*), what was the reason for keeping in the lock-up the accused person for as long a period as a month and a half without trial?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—The Magistrate was unwell.

Kothanagatta Bommenahallikere.

Q.—27. **Mr. B. L. HUTCHAPPA** (Channarayapatna Taluk),—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) how many years have elapsed since the waste weir of the Kothanagatta Bommenahallikere in Channarayapatna Taluk was raised;

(*b*) has it come to the notice of Government that, owing to the absence of stone rivetment to the tank bund up to the level of the waste weir, the bund has scoured up all along and is in a very dangerous condition?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar).**—

(*a*) The weir was not raised but the tank was restored to its original weir level according to an estimate sanctioned in 1926.

(*b*) The level of rivetment is above the weir level, but maintenance work to the tank has been neglected by the raiyats. The tank is not in a dangerous condition.

Mr. B. L. HUTCHAPPA.—With reference to answer to (*b*), is not the bund in a dangerous condition?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—No.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution No. 1.

Handing over Amarai and Hulbanni Revenues and Sale Proceeds of Vacant Sites to Village Panchayets.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that the income derived out of *amarai* and *hulbanni* be exclusively set apart for the improvement of village panchayets in the State since both the items come within village administration."

Before speaking on the resolution, he accepted the following amendment given notice of by Mr. V. V. Iyer:—

Delete 'and,' and *insert* a comma in its place after '*amarai*' in line three and 'both the' after 'since' in line five and *add* 'and also sale of vacant sites' after *hulbanni* in line three and 'these' after 'since' in line five.

The resolution as amended was as follows:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that the income derived out of *amarai*, *hulbanni* and also sale of vacant sites be exclusively set apart for the improvement of village panchayets in the State since these items come within village administration."

In moving the resolution as amended, he said that village panchayets were very much handicapped for want of sufficient funds for the improvement of villages. The income from *amarai* and *hulbanni* rightly belonged to them, being derived within their areas. These items of revenue, instead of being handed over to them, were being credited to State funds. He requested that the present procedure be discontinued and the income handed over to village panchayets for carrying out improvement works. Now that an earnest attempt at rural reconstruction work was being made, this amount would come in handy for the purpose. With these remarks, he commended the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. V. V. IYER seconded the resolution and thanked the mover for having accepted his amendment. He said that while rural reconstruction had been taken up only recently in British India, probably as a result of the pressure brought to bear on the Government by the Indian National Congress, so far as the Mysore State was concerned the question had been engaging the attention of the Government for the last 9 or 10 years. It was for this purpose that village panchayets were brought into existence and entrusted with certain functions, such as providing inter-village communications, medical aid, sanitation, propaganda in regard to the use of improved agricultural implements, etc. But the panchayets had not enough resources with which to discharge

all these functions satisfactorily. No doubt Government were providing every year a lumpsum grant of Rs. 50,000 for village panchayets, but as there were about 11,000 panchayets in the State, no panchayet could get more than 3 or 4 rupees. Consequently, village improvement work had been considerably handicapped. The income under each of the three items mentioned in the resolution was not much and if the village panchayets were allowed to retain them, it would help the panchayets to undertake the necessary improvement works.

Mr. H. B. GUNDAPPA said that as the resolution was non-contentious, it might be put to the House without further discussion.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Mr. K. V. Anantaraman) said that five or six years ago, a similar resolution had been moved in the House and Government had passed orders in the matter. Government had stated in that order that in many villages the income was small and that the best course to adopt was to credit the income under these heads to State funds, such assistance as was necessary to village panchayets being given in the shape of cash grants. He was of the opinion that it was not a correct or sound procedure to assign such items of revenue to village panchayets. Formerly *mohatarfa* was being recovered by the Government, but a few years back, it was handed over to the village panchayets. Experience had shown that they were not able to collect the amounts regularly and large amounts had fallen into arrear: Such a state of affairs would help neither the Government nor the local bodies.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY suggested that the amounts might be collected by the Government and handed over to the concerned village panchayets.

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN observed that this would not be possible. In the malnad, for instance, the number of houses in a particular village panchayet area might be very few, but the income might be appreciable. In such cases Government should have the discretion to utilise the income for improvement works in other panchayets. For this purpose, it was necessary that the revenue under these heads should be credited to State funds and Government should allot suitable grants for improvement works in village panchayets.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA suggested that the entire income derived under these three heads might be set apart for being given to panchayets in the shape of grants. If this suggestion was accepted by the Government, he said he would withdraw the resolution.

Mr. K. V. ANANTARAMAN observed that it was not a feasible proposition.

The resolution was then put to vote and carried.

Resolution No. 2.

Programme of Village Improvement Work.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that a definite programme be chalked out so that every important village in the State might have the benefit of having (i) a primary school, (ii) a hospital, (iii) a drinking water well, (iv) a tank in good order, and (v) a co-operative society, in consonance with the declaration made by the Dewan in 1926 "

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA seconded the resolution.

Nawab SHER KHAN, in supporting the resolution, said that a library might also be opened in each village.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY said that the main purpose of the resolution was that there should be a definite programme in the matter of providing the wants mentioned in the resolution and that the members would be satisfied if a statement was made by the Government in that matter.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH pointed out that though the declaration was made by the Dewan so long ago as 1926, no action had yet been taken by Government to give effect to it. The Elementary Education Regulation, for instance, had been introduced by the Government themselves 6 years ago, but not given practical effect to. If a

definite programme, as suggested in the resolution, was chalked out, he thought it would incidentally help to provide every village with a school.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Mr. N. S. Subba Rao) said that the question of establishing a primary school in every village was mainly one of funds. There was a programme in respect of it and according to it 100 to 150 new schools were being opened every year. So far as giving effect to the provisions of the Elementary Education Regulation was concerned, there was some difficulty. Some District Boards had not sent up the programmes contemplated under the Regulation and the few that were submitted had not sufficient financial backing. So they had to be referred back to the concerned local bodies. So far, only the District Boards of Kolar and Mysore had sent up schemes which were satisfactory from the financial point of view also. The extension of primary education in other districts could be thought of only after receipt of programmes from the respective District Boards supported by finance. It was very easy to say that every village should have a school, but to provide one was a difficult matter. As funds became available, more and more schools would be opened.

The SECOND MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina N. Madhava Rau) observed that the Director of Public Instruction had explained clearly the position in respect of opening primary schools in villages. The speaker would say that in respect of each of the remaining items also, there was a definite programme and it was being given effect to wherever possible. So far as dispensaries were concerned, Government for their part were ready to bear the pay of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons, but the running expenses, etc., had to be borne by the District Boards concerned. It was not possible for the Government to meet the entire expenditure on the maintenance of dispensaries. Wherever the local bodies were prepared to meet their portion of the expenditure, Government would generally be willing to open new dispensaries in places where they were required. So, this was a question which mainly depended upon the funds available with the District Boards.

As regards drinking water wells, the members of the House must be aware that Government had been providing large sums every year for sinking more and more wells. The District Boards also were doing their best in the matter. But even in this field of work, the activities of the local bodies had to be restricted to the funds available with them. It was therefore not possible to have a cut and dried programme in respect of these two matters.

As regards tanks, the Chief Engineer had stated on a previous occasion that there were already a large number of sanctioned works to complete which the Government would have to provide large sums every year for some years to come. Such being the case, an elaborate programme in addition to their present commitments was not workable.

With reference to the opening of co-operative societies in every village, **Mr. MADHAVA RAU** said that a great deal of propaganda was necessary and also honest and educated men were needed to manage the societies properly. Members of the House who had attended the recent Co-operative Conference might have known what great stress was laid on these two important matters. Societies could only be started under such favourable conditions; or else, they would not help the people of the locality.

It would be evident from the above that the primary wants of the villages were being provided by the departments concerned to the extent possible. There was no difference in the view points of the Government and the members in the matter of providing these wants. Under such circumstances, he did not think that much would be gained by pressing the resolution and hoped that the mover would withdraw it.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA said that his suggestions would not entail any very heavy expenditure to Government. He did not want that all the needs should be provided in all the villages immediately. On the other hand, he would be content

if the Government formulated a definite programme in respect of all these matters spreading it over a period of 20 or 30 or even 50 years.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU pointed out that if it was to be a 30 or 50 year-plan, as was suggested, no one would have any interest in it and its success would be doubtful. Government accepted the need to provide the elementary wants in each village and in fact were doing their best already in the matter. In all these matters, it was not possible to have a cut and dried programme.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA withdrew the resolution in the hope that more and more interest would be taken by the Government in the matter.

The resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Resolution No. 3.

Economic Survey.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that a survey of the economic condition of the people of the State be made early."

In doing so, he said that the subject-matter of the resolution was not a new one. Ten years ago the question of conducting an economic survey of the State was brought up before the Government in the shape of a resolution and ever since then it had been coming up before the House in some form or other. There could be no difference of opinion on the point that the economic condition of the people was very appalling and was going from bad to worse each year. Various suggestions were being made by the members of the House for improving the situation and Government also, for their part, were adopting measures to tackle the problem. But, the action that had been taken so far was not sufficient to effectively deal with the problem. That was because there were no reliable and accurate statistics relating to the economic condition of the people. In the absence of correct statistics, any action taken to improve the economic condition would be something like prescribing medicines to a patient without properly diagnosing his disease. In opposing a similar resolution moved before the House about 3 years ago, the Director of Public Instruction had said that every Revenue Officer was in fact an economic inquiry officer who submitted his report to Government regularly. But the speaker was afraid that the reports of Revenue Officers to Government could not amount to economic survey in its correct sense. On the other hand, their information helped the Government to run the administrative machinery. A regular economic survey, in his opinion, was necessary to know the exact condition of the people. In other countries, such surveys were being undertaken periodically. For instance, Soviet Russia undertook such a survey, planned a definite programme and acted according to it, with the result that it had made wonderful progress at improving the economic condition of the masses. Japan, Germany and America had their own schemes of economic improvement. Even the Sapru Committee, who went into the question of unemployment in general, had recommended that economic survey was quite essential to decide the measures to be adopted to improve the economic condition of the people. It might no doubt be argued by Government that such a survey would entail very heavy expenditure. But, Government should not stint to incur any expenditure on such a survey, because both they and the people stood to benefit by it. With these remarks, he commended the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

In seconding the resolution, **Mr. B. L. BYANNA** said that though the Government had promised to take action on the suggestions made by him three or four years ago, he was not aware what action they had taken in the matter. During question time that day, in reply to a question as to the measures taken by the Government to solve the question of unemployment, the Government had said that new industries, irrigation

and electrical works, etc., were being started to afford employment to the unemployed. Such enterprises might provide employment to only a few people and would not solve the question in its entirety. The number of University graduates was on the increase from year to year. Many of them had spent their entire fortune on their education and, he asked, what should happen to them if they could not find employment. To find out, therefore, to what extent the new industries would help to relieve unemployment and what further measures were necessary to cope with the situation, an inquiry of the kind suggested in the resolution was very essential. The representatives of the people, being in touch with the masses, knew their actual condition much better than the Government who had to depend on the reports furnished to them by their officers, and as such, he would request the Government to attach due weight to their representations in the matter and not to brush them aside. He was afraid that if things were allowed to drift, a time might come when it would be utterly impossible for the Government to face the situation.

Mr. H. B. GUNDAPPA, in supporting the resolution, said that the Government were well aware of the condition of the raiyats in the villages and it was with a view to give them relief that they had introduced the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation. They were also contemplating other measures of relief such as the setting up of debt conciliation boards, etc. But he was doubtful whether any measures of relief undertaken by the Government would benefit the people unless statistics were collected as to the extent of each raiyat's holding, his income, his expenditure, his indebtedness, his capacity to bear taxation, the actual incidence of taxation, etc. At present a lot of money was going outside the State as a result of the value of imports into the State being far in excess of the exports. It was necessary to find out ways and means to increase the export trade of the State. For these reasons, he thought that an economic survey was very necessary. Such a survey would help not only the Government but also the local bodies to take the necessary ameliorative measures.

Mr. M. A. GOPALASWAMI IYENGAR, in supporting the resolution, said that there were two or three reports dealing with the economic situation in India. Some time ago, Sir M. Visvesvaraya had presided over an Economic Enquiry Committee and had recently published a book under the caption "Planned Economy for India." Two experts from England had come to India on invitation from the Government of India and after exhaustive inquiry recommended, among other things, that an economic census of India should be conducted. In the Punjab, there was a Board of Economic Inquiry, and in Madras and other provinces, there were Economic Advisory Councils. So far as this State was concerned, no action seemed to have been taken to establish such a council. Even the post of the special officer for the economic survey of the malnad was abolished a few years ago. It was very desirable that some such body should be brought into existence to collect statistics on a scientific basis and make them available to the public. Until that was done, it would not be possible for the members to make any concrete suggestions to improve the economic condition of the people. For these reasons, he thought that an economic survey as was suggested in the resolution was essential.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Mr. N. S. Subba Rao) opposed the resolution. He said that the mover of the resolution did not seem to have understood the spirit of his remarks made on a previous occasion on the subject. What he (the speaker) said then was that as the Government were getting all the information from their officers from time to time, there was no need for an elaborate economic survey involving heavy expenditure, and not that an economic survey would not be of any use. As a result of getting reports from their officers, the Government were in a position to gauge the economic condition of the people. They were aware

in general that the people were poor; that their earning capacity was low; that they were illiterate; that they were heavily indebted; that sanitary conditions were far from satisfactory; that medical relief and educational facilities were inadequate, etc. Only, they could not furnish figures to the last decimal point. With a view to improve the economic condition of the people, Government were sanctioning liberal sums for drinking water wells, schools, dispensaries, etc.; they had also taken up rural reconstruction schemes; they had started new industries, irrigation and electrical works to provide employment to the people. When Government were taking measures in all these directions, he did not see any need for a separate economic survey of the State. He also said that such an inquiry would take a long time before it could be completed and would also be very expensive, and it might so happen that by the time the results of the inquiry were made available to the public, the value of the statistics collected might get reduced, might be of no use whatever owing to altered conditions. The inquiry therefore would result not only in waste of time but also of money. Instead of wasting heavy sums of money on such a scheme, he said that the moneys might be better utilised in affording relief to the people in other directions.

Mr. SYED MOHIYUDDIN HUSSAIN, in opposing the resolution, said that the present low economic condition of the people was the outcome of their artificial and expensive ways of living. Even poor people who were not earning more than a few annas per day were going in for luxuries. They would not forgo morning coffee; they would not walk even small distances but would travel in buses; they would put on costly dress, etc. They were also spending extravagantly during marriages, borrowing moneys at high rates of interest. He was of opinion that if the economic position should improve, people must change their mode of living and take to simple habits. Till then no useful purpose would be served by the proposed economic survey.

The DIRECTOR of INDUSTRIES and COMMERCE (Mr. S. G. Sastry), speaking on behalf of Government, said that the subject had come up for discussion before the Assembly on several occasions. Messrs. D. H. Chandrasekharaiya and P. Subbarama Chetty had brought up similar resolutions in the past. There was no disagreement as to the necessity for improving the economic position of the people. But disagreement, if at all, was in the method of tackling the problem. As pointed out by Mr. Gopalaswami Iyengar, there were a number of reports in British India dealing with the problem. It had been estimated that for conducting an economic survey in British India, the initial expenditure would amount to a couple of crores. About 25 lakhs of rupees would be required annually by way of recurring expenditure. Similarly, an economic survey in the State would involve heavy expenditure. Government already possessed statistical information pertaining to various industries and occupations of the people. For instance, in respect of hand-loom weaving, a survey had already been conducted and a report published. So also in respect of cocoanut growing. So far as tobacco, which was a commercial crop, was concerned, a special officer had investigated into its possibilities and submitted a report to Government. Survey in respect of marketing of foodstuffs was going on. As regards the coffee industry, Government had provided a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs for giving loans to coffee planters with a view to affording them relief on account of the heavy fall in the price of coffee. They were also considering how best they could help the areca-nut growers. Survey of housing conditions, home industries, power looms, etc., had been undertaken in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore. In respect of woollen industry, a report had already been published after survey. As regards silk industry, which was a source of livelihood to lakhs of people in the State, reliable statistics were available. About tanning industry, Government were in possession of the necessary details. They had also

collected valuable statistics in connection with the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation with a view to afford relief to agriculturists. In addition to all these, particulars about various industries were being collected during the decennial census and incorporated in a special chapter of the Census Report. If detailed information in respect of any other particular industry was required. attempts would be made to collect and incorporate it in future Census Reports. When, thus, action was being taken by the Government in various directions to improve the economic condition of the people, he did not consider that an additional survey, resulting in waste of time, energy and money, was called for. For these reasons, he regretted that Government were not prepared to accept the resolution.

Mr. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY, in supporting the resolution, said that it was evident from the speech of the Director of Industries and Commerce that many industries had been surveyed and those left out were only a few. Survey in respect of those few industries also might be taken up and completed as it would not entail much expenditure. He did not agree with the inference drawn by the Director of Public Instruction that as Government were aware of the actual economic position of the people and were taking all possible action towards its improvement, no useful purpose would be served by conducting a separate economic survey. On the other hand, the speaker was of opinion that it was desirable to collect correct and reliable statistics even if it entailed some expenditure. Statistics collected on a scientific basis would be more reliable than reports submitted to Government by their officers.

Continuing, the speaker said that it was very necessary to collect particulars about *per capita* income and expenditure, incidence of taxation, capacity to bear taxation, what new enterprises should be undertaken, how they should be financed, whether there was enough money available in the State, if not in what way financial help should be secured, etc. So far as the State was concerned, the balance of trade was against her. With a view to take stock of her resources and also to find out in what directions efforts should be made to regain her lost position, it was necessary that the State should conduct an economic survey. When Germany was faced with a similar situation a few years ago, she conducted an economic survey and took bold measures to regain her lost industrial position in less than 3 or 4 years. For these reasons, he thought that an economic survey should be undertaken by the Government irrespective of the cost involved.

Mr. GURUSWAMI GOWDA, supporting the resolution, said that a survey would help to find out the condition of the people in the various parts of the State—whether they were rich or poor and in what way they should be helped.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that what the Member was referring to was a poverty survey and not an economic survey in the strict sense of the term.

Mr. K. SRIKANTAIAH pointed out that a perusal of the Mysore trade statistics would reveal that as against 10 crores worth of imports, the exports were worth only 8 crores, so that the balance of trade was unfavourable to the State to the tune of Rs. 2 crores. The imports related mostly to foodstuffs such as rice, cereal, plantains, etc. Ragi was the staple food of the people; but the raiyats were finding it difficult to grow it because it did not pay them. It was desirable to ascertain to what extent the articles of foodstuffs that were at present imported could be grown in the State itself. If a survey of the large extents of uncultivated lands were undertaken and an investigation of crops that could be grown on them were made and action taken to grow them, it would be possible to improve the wealth of the country. For these reasons, he supported the resolution.

Mr. T. MARIYAPPA also supported the resolution. While appreciating the steps taken by Government to improve the economic position of the people, he

felt that what was being done by the Government was not methodical. In order to rectify the existing defects, he thought that there was an imperative necessity to collect statistics in respect of the earning capacity of the raiyat; his expenditure; the extent of his holding; whether it was sufficient to enable him to eke out his livelihood; the burden of taxation with reference to his earning capacity; whether it was equally distributed; if not, how it could be equalised; in what way his earning capacity should be increased, and so on

Continuing, the speaker said that as conditions in the malnad were altogether different from those in the maidan, it was desirable to conduct separate surveys—one for the malnad and the other for the maidan.

The Government had recently undertaken the rural reconstruction scheme. For its success also, a survey of the kind suggested in the resolution would be of great help.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK said that members of the House were constantly bringing to the notice of the Government various difficulties and hardships felt by the people in the rural parts, and in that connection the Government had come to know the low economic condition of the people. He therefore saw no need for a separate economic survey involving lakhs of rupees. He thought that the money could be better utilised on rural reconstruction.

The PRESIDENT observed that Government were conducting surveys in respect of particular industries as and when there was necessity for them. A comprehensive survey of the kind suggested would involve very heavy expenditure and Government could ill afford to incur it in their present financial condition.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA said that a comprehensive economic survey would be extremely useful to all.

The PRESIDENT remarked that mere paper reports were not going to improve the economic position of the people, unless adequate funds were made available to give effect to the suggestions contained in them. Government were at present doing their best with regard to each industry and were prepared to do as much in future. With this assurance, he hoped that the member would withdraw his resolution.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA said that considerations of cost ought not to deter the Government from undertaking the survey. An expenditure of one or two lakhs of rupees on the survey ought not to loom large, considering the benefits derivable from such a survey. If it was undertaken, non-officials also would be prepared to co-operate with the Government in their task, as they did during census operations.

The PRESIDENT replied that for a special work of this nature, research workers and experts were necessary. It was not a thing which could be done by anybody and everybody.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA said that there was no dearth of experts in the State who could undertake the work. It was as a result of inquiries and periodical surveys by specialists that western countries had achieved marvellous progress in trade and industry. A government, which had written off the losses in the Bhadravati Iron Works to the tune of several lakhs of rupees by one stroke of the pen, should not hesitate to incur the necessary expenditure for conducting such a useful survey. In this view, he pressed the resolution to a division.

Thereupon, the resolution was put to vote and passed.

Resolution No. 4.

Admission of Harijans into Hindu Temples.

Mr. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that the Harijans (Adikarnatakas and Adidravidas) may be permitted to worship in all the muzrai-managed temples in the State."

In doing so, he said that this subject was not a new one. Only four months

previously it had been discussed threadbare in the Legislative Council. There was a great volume of public opinion in favour of the reform. Learned pandits and some *mathadhipathies* were also in favour of it. He understood that His Holiness Sree Murugharajendra Swami had permitted a Harijan to enter his Mutt and gave him *tirtha* and *prasadam*. Only recently, His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Kurthukoti as President of the Hindu Mahasabha, had explained that the *dharma sastras* did not contemplate the exclusion of any member of the Hindu fold from temples. Mahamahopadhyaya Sridhara Sastrigalu had published a pamphlet on the subject supported by the authority of *sastras*. The attitude of higher caste-Hindus towards the Harijans had considerably changed and their outlook had broadened. Many of the members, he thought, might have read in the papers that during the previous session of the Hindu Mahasabha, thousands of caste-Hindus dined with Harijans. Coming nearer home, he mentioned that even His Highness the Maharaja, who was known to be very orthodox, had been graciously pleased to admit the Harijans to the Palace Durbar. On the basis of the above facts, it would be rational for the Government to take the lead and permit Harijans to worship in all muzrai-managed temples. If the reform was initiated at the existing opportune moment, he had no doubt that the example would be copied by non-muzrai institutions also. Originally, Harijan boys were not being admitted into the general schools. But Government took a bold step forward and directed that they should be admitted into all Government schools. No doubt there were some protests in the beginning. But they died out subsequently, and the problem of admission of Harijan pupils into general schools was solved automatically. Similarly, in the matter of allowing Harijans into temples also, Government should adopt a bold policy. They need not fear that any untoward consequences would follow, as social customs were fast undergoing changes and public opinion was veering in favour of temple entry. With these remarks he commended the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

In seconding the resolution, **Mr. M. A. GOPALASWAMI IYENGAR** said that what was asked for was that temples under the management of Government should be thrown open to Harijans. But he pointed out that the mover could have made his intention clearer by stating "muzrai-managed Hindu temples."

Mr. P. MURUGESAM PILLAY replied that, if permitted, he would move an amendment to the resolution accordingly.

Continuing, **Mr. M. A. GOPALASWAMI IYENGAR** said that it might be argued by the opposers of the resolution that such a step was against *agamas*. Though he did not know the exact sastraic point of view, he would say that there was some difference of opinion on the question. Another objection might be raised on the ground that there would be legal difficulties in throwing open the temples to Harijans as Government were only trustees of such temples and could not act counter to the wishes of the original donors who established them. His reply to such an objection would be that in a recent Privy Council decision it had been made clear that a Hindu temple was a trust for the religion and not a trust for the race. In his opinion that was in the nature of an *obiter dictum* and did not form part of a judicial decision. If that position was accepted, he contended that Government had the power to allow Harijans to temples. As it was accepted that Harijans were Hindus, there would be no legal restriction under the law to admit them into the temples.

Mr. M. NANJAPPA said that while Harijans could be admitted into the Melkote and Belur temples, he did not see any reason why they should be denied admission into other temples, more especially when other Hindus who were addicted to the drink habit were not denied admission into them. By throwing open the temples to Harijans, the more advanced communities would be helping them and it would be conducive to the solidarity of the Hindu-

fold. As a practical step he suggested that the reform might first be started in big cities and then slowly extended to towns, hoblis and villages. With these remarks, he supported the resolution.

Mr. C. N. NARASINGA RAO, in supporting the resolution, said that the question of throwing open temples to Harijans had become an all-India question. A great opportunity had presented itself to Mysore, and the rest of India was anxiously looking up to it, which was considered a Model State, for a lead in the matter. He hoped that Mysore would rise to the occasion and fulfil the expectation and thus rise in the estimation of the country.

Continuing, he said that every individual had the inherent right to worship God and it was unjust to prevent him from exercising that right. Wherever disabilities existed against the exercise of that right, it was the duty of the Government and the people to provide the necessary facilities for removing them. He also did not see any reason why, when Christians and other non-Hindus were allowed to enter the temples at Belur, Halebid, Sravanabelagola and other places, Harijans who were part and parcel of the Hindu-fold should be prohibited from entering them. He asked how the Hindu society, which consisted of civilized men and women of good conscience could tolerate a section of their own community being subjected to all sorts of indignities and social inequalities. He understood from reliable sources that the restrictions imposed on the depressed classes had not the sanction of either the *vedas* or the *sastras* and therefore should be removed. In conclusion, the speaker emphasized that Harijans, who numbered about 20 lakhs in the State, were the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja equally with others and ought to be treated in the same way as other citizens of the State. In this view, he hoped that the Harijans would be allowed free access to temples.

Mr. GURUSWAMI GOWDA, in supporting the resolution, pointed out that for a temple in Hoskote Taluk a Muslim gentleman had been appointed as *dharmadarsi*. As *dharmadarsi*, he would have to go into the temple to look after its affairs. When a member of a different faith could be permitted into the Hindu temple, the speaker did not see any reason why a depressed class person, who after all belonged to the Hindu community, should be denied access to temples.

Mr. Belur SRINIVASIENGAR, in supporting the resolution, said that in reply to a similar resolution that had been tabled by him during the December Session of the Legislative Council of 1932, Government had stated:—

> "Muzrai institutions are very large in number and varied in character including temples for which Government make a nominal grant. There are also certain legal difficulties. In social and religious matters, Government can do very little without the co-operation of the general public in giving effect to measures of reform. Without such co-operation any measures taken by Government will not only be futile but, as previous experience shows, will be harmful to the very class whose uplift is considered necessary. While Government sympathise with the objects embodied in this resolution, they find it very difficult to accept it. They want to find out what the public opinion in the matter is, and as the matter has now come up before the Legislative Council, Government would be glad to know the exact opinion of this Council. So far as they are concerned, they propose to remain neutral if the proposition is pressed to a division."

That resolution was pressed and it was adopted *nem con.*

Later on, when the question was once again pressed, Government put forward another argument, *viz.*, that they were mere trustees of the muzrai institutions to carry out the intentions of the donors who endowed them with properties. So far as he could see, there was nothing in the resolution which went counter to the wishes of the donors, as there would be no sort of interference with the daily worship in the temples. Harijans were already being admitted into certain important temples like those at Melkote and Belur. They were also joining the Hindus in pulling the temple cars during *Rathotsavam* festivals in certain places. The outlook of the people had considerably broadened. Government should view the reform in a very sympathetic manner and see that social and religious inequalities and indignities imposed on a certain section of the Hindus were done away with, Government retaining

to themselves such safeguards as were considered necessary for the proper discharge of their functions as trustees. With these remarks, he supported the resolution.

Mr. V. VENKATAPPA said that as the subject-matter of the resolution had been discussed in great detail both in the House and elsewhere, there was nothing left for him to say. It was a happy augury that the resolution was receiving support from all communities. The attitude of His Highness the Maharaja towards the depressed classes was another happy augury. Public opinion as expressed by the representatives of the people was also in favour of the reform! Thus it was an opportune moment for the Government to adopt the reform and not postpone it on account of any imaginary fear or difficulty.

Continuing, he said that this was an all-India question and was being discussed in the Press and on the platform. When this subject was discussed in the Legislative Council in June 1936, the Muzrai Commissioner stated that he had enquired whether the conferences said to have been held to create public opinion in favour of the reform had been advertised as Harijan conferences or general conferences and had been informed that they were Harijan conferences, attended by caste-Hindus also. It was clear from this that the caste-Hindus were in favour of the reform.

The speaker also brought to the notice of the House that in Melur there was a Gangamma temple, the *archak* of which was a Madiga. During the *jatras*, every one in the village went to the temple and received *prasadam* at his hands. The same was the practice in the temple at Husakur village in the Anekal Taluk. When Adikarnatakas could be *archaks* in certain temples, the speaker was at a loss to know why the entry of Adikarnatakas into other temples should be prohibited. In the villages, Adikarnatakas were mixing with the raiyats freely. The opposition to the reform which existed a few years previously was not to be found at present owing to the existing broader outlook of the people. Nearly every one was in favour of the reform at the present time. Under these circumstances, he hoped that the Government would accept the resolution and throw open the temples to Harijans. With these remarks he supported the resolution.

At this stage, the House adjourned for lunch and reassembled at 3-30 p.m.

Mr. N. Y. VEERABHADRACHAR was of opinion that the reformers who had supported the resolution would do well first to concentrate their efforts on securing the ordinary civil right of marriage processions, etc., of depressed classes passing on the public streets, and then take up the question of temple entry. He had personally no objection to permitting this community to worship in all the temples along with caste-Hindus, provided that the former reform was first achieved. The answer furnished by the Government to Question No. 64 regarding the banning of a bridal procession revealed a deplorable state of affairs.

Mr. N. G. SANJEEVIAH, on the other hand, gave his unqualified support to the resolution. He mentioned that the question of temple entry had come up before a public meeting organized under the auspices of the Hindu Maha Sabha so early as 1928, over which the speaker himself presided. No less a person than the late Mr. M. Venkatakrishnaiya moved the resolution on the subject and it was carried with acclamation by a vast majority. In 1929, again, the same question had been brought up in the form of a resolution before the Legislative Council when the Government replied that public opinion should first veer round in favour of the reform. Since then the question had come up before the public forum many a time and the trend of public opinion was decidedly in favour of it. Still, owing to the opposition of the trustees of the temples, the depressed classes had to resort to clandestine methods of entering temples, under the guise of *uttamas* or caste-Hindus. But if the proposed reform was agreed to, they need not adopt such clandestine methods for worshipping God. To say that the

sanctity of a temple would be lost merely by a Harijan entering it would be meaningless. In all muzrai institutions where the original donors had not made in their endowment deeds any stipulations prohibiting the entry of Harijans, he did not see any objection to introducing the proposed reform. For these reasons he strongly advocated the acceptance of the resolution by the House as it would give a powerful impetus to, and speed up the advancement of, the community.

Mr. K. V. VEERANNA, in opposing the resolution, expressed surprise that several Brahmin members should have supported the resolution and he cautioned the Government against accepting it. There was great sanctity attached to temples and in certain places even non-Brahmin Hindus were not allowed inside.

The main reason for the opposition to the proposed reform was that the generality of the depressed classes had not shown any improvement in the matter of sanitation, personal cleanliness, hygiene, social habits, and above all in the matter of food. He pointed out that the community resided mostly in rural areas wherein the higher castes were generally very conservative and sometimes horrified at the mere suggestion of throwing open temples to untouchables. He was afraid that any movement intended to bring about a radical change in religious matters would infuriate the conservative elements and jeopardise public safety in concerned areas. For these reasons, he did not think it expedient for the Government to rake up the question of temple entry at least till the habits of the depressed classes improved.

Messrs. PUTTAVEERABHADRAPPA and **K. VENKATASAMI GOWDA**, in endorsing the views expressed by the previous speaker, said that acute differences existed even as between the two sections of the depressed classes, *viz.*, Madigas and Holeyas. No manner of social contact was permitted between them; a Madiga would not even send his children to a school where a Holeya happened to be teacher. Under such circumstances, the speakers would urge the supporters of the reform to bring about, in the first instance, unity between the two branches of that community by propaganda and other educative methods. The latter speaker mentioned that on one occasion he actually volunteered to take some members of the depressed classes to the temple in his village. But owing to certain superstitious notions deeply imbedded in their minds they refused point-blank to respond to his invitation. This went to show that even if the resolution was passed, it was doubtful whether the depressed classes would avail themselves of the reform. They therefore felt that the question under discussion should be deferred pending the attainment of the more elementary and urgent reforms advocated by them.

Mr. Bale SIDDALINGA SETTY also opposed the resolution. He said that most of the temples had lands and other properties endowed to them by private philanthropists, from the yield of which not only the temples were being maintained but the performance of the daily worship, etc., was being conducted according to *Agama Sastras*. Any change in the system would be called sacrilege and thereby the very object of the endowment would be frustrated. He said that the Government should, under no circumstances, be a party to betraying the trust reposed in them by the original donors.

Mr. T. MARIYAPPA, on the other hand, spoke in support of the resolution. He pointed out that a large majority of the speakers had supported the resolution and that only two or three had opposed it. The main contentions of the opposers were (1) that the age-long practice should not be changed suddenly and (2) that the Harijans themselves had not shaken off their inferiority complex so as to be able to profit by the proposed reform.

As regards the first, he said that a social custom, however age-long, deserved to go if it was irrational and unjust. On this principle, the existing practice of keeping the Harijans away from temples, which had betrayed the narrow-mindedness of the caste-Hindus and had tended to keep the Harijans in perpetual bondage, deserved to be

done away with unhesitatingly. In regard to the second point, he was afraid that the knowledge of the opposers was far from up-to-date. Conditions in the State had changed considerably during the past decade. The Harijan boys were sitting side by side with the children of caste-Hindus in public schools; several tanks and wells had been thrown open to the community; so far as the constitutional bodies went the representatives of that community were sitting as equals with other members in their capacity as legislators and quite recently, they had also been allowed admission to the Palace Durbars. If, at such a stage, opportunities were created for them to mix with caste-Hindus in the matter of worship also, he had no doubt that it would speed up the advancement of the community.

Proceeding, the speaker explained that he had it on the authority of Dr. Kurthukoti that the *Hindu Dharma Sastras* did not contemplate the exclusion of any member of the Hindu-fold from temples. In the eye of God, there was no distinction between one caste and another, and seeing that the only basis of true civilisation lay in the recognition of human unity, he had no doubt that the proposed reform would tend to the rejuvenation of Hinduism and save it from rupture. Otherwise, he was afraid that the discontent among the Harijans would increase and they might get out of the Hindu-fold in much larger numbers and embrace other religions and thus weaken the Hindu society to that extent.

Mr. PUTTASAMI GOWDA was not prepared to admit that the supporters of the reform were really voicing the opinion of the masses, though they claimed to represent them. Even among caste-Hindus, any amount of differences existed in the matter of social contact and he did not believe that it would be possible to remove by a mere stroke of the pen the age-long social restrictions imposed on the depressed classes. He challenged the supporters of the resolution to get elected to the next Assembly on the temple entry ticket.

Continuing, he said that in the Nanjangud Taluk, even the minor reform of throwing open drinking water wells for Harijans had resulted in frequent disturbances of the peace and formed the subject-matter of a judicial enquiry. This showed clearly that public opinion was not sufficiently ripe for ushering the proposed reform. For these reasons, he opposed the resolution.

Mr. MUNIVENKATAPPA said that the subject-matter of the resolution had created not a little uneasiness in the minds of the people. This was due to the fact that the depressed classes were still indulging in filthy habits such as the practice of eating the carcases of animals, especially of the cow which was held in great veneration by the Hindus. For this reason, they had alienated the sympathy and had come to be treated as untouchables by the caste-Hindus who were as a class highly sentimental. He therefore felt that the enthusiastic supporters of the resolution would do well to concentrate their efforts, in the first instance, at weening the depressed classes from the habit of eating carcases. If that reform was achieved, the opposition to the question of temple entry would lessen to a considerable extent. For these reasons, he thought that the proposed reform might be deferred for the present. In this view, he opposed the resolution.

Mr. B. L. HUTCHAPPA cautioned the Government against being carried away by the views expressed in the Assembly, especially in matters affecting religion. He was afraid that those who had supported the resolution were not voicing the feelings of the people especially of rural areas. In this connection he related his recent experience in Kantarajapura where he commanded some influence and how, consequent on his proposal to admit the local depressed classes to the *Ramotsava* celebrations, he met with a rebuff from the people. Similarly his attempt at securing them the privilege of using the village tank threatened to lead to a disturbance of the peace. All those things showed that Government should not be in a hurry to effect socio-religious reforms and that the question should wait till

there was a change of heart on the part of the people which could be brought about only with the spread of education and enlightenment in the villages. With these remarks, he opposed the resolution.

Mr. SIVANANJE GOWDA, in opposing the resolution, said that the Assembly would, by passing the resolution, be betraying the confidence reposed in the members by their respective constituencies. Much value need not be attached to the statement that the Panchamas were recently admitted into the Palace in as much as it was only an admission in the technical sense. He had his own doubts as to how many of the supporters of the resolution would admit Harijans into their houses. At the previous session of the Assembly, in answer to a question, the Government had stated that the practice of *Shatari Maryade* in certain temples was an age-long practice open only to one community, and that no deviation from it was permissible. While the members of the Assembly were not able to secure a small concession from temples in respect of even caste-Hindus, it was surprising that they should think of securing admission for untouchables into the temples. If at all, he said that the proposed reform could be brought about when the masses of the people realised the universal brotherhood of man and the oneness of God, etc.

Mr. K. P. CHANNABASAPPA pointed out that the privilege of temple entry was not going to bring about a millennium for the depressed classes. The more urgent problems to be tackled for bringing about their uplift were those relating to their economic well-being. Government had not succeeded in allowing them free use of wells in the villages. So also on the question of marriage processions, Government were afraid of allowing them freedom and were insisting on their obtaining licences and police protection. Such being the case, he could not understand how the Government would protect the community from the evil effects that might arise as a result of allowing them to enter temples. It would also become difficult for the Government to avoid a frequent disturbance of the public peace.

The speaker also felt that there was not much of earnestness in the attitude of the supporters of the resolution. If they were really earnest about the matter, they would do well, in the first instance, to admit the untouchables into their own houses and then think of the larger question of temple entry.

Messrs. CHELUVIAH and **MADIAH** supported the resolution. They said that the removal of the existing ban on temple entry would create scope for the speedy advancement of the Harijans in every direction, including plain living and high thinking. They believed in securing God's grace by worshipping Him in temples. The message of the temples will penetrate every Harijan hut. On this ground, they warmly supported the resolution.

The MUZRAI COMMISSIONER (Mr. K. V. Anantaraman), speaking on behalf of Government, answered the main points raised in the course of the debate He said that Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty who moved the resolution had levelled a charge against the Government that while everybody, from the members of the Assembly right up to His Highness the Maharaja, had sympathy for the advancement of the depressed classes, the Government alone were illiberal and that if Government also viewed the question liberally, the question of temple entry would be solved without difficulty. He doubted whether that member seriously believed in what he said. Because, it was a matter of common knowledge that the Government of Mysore were one of the earliest to provide several special facilities for the educational and economic improvement of the depressed classes and the policy adopted by them for advancing the cause of that community had been applauded in all quarters. Government might be slow in moving in certain matters but to charge the Government with illiberality would be unjustifiable. Referring to the observation of another member that when the question came up in the form of a resolution before the Legislative Council in 1932, it was passed without opposition, he observed that when the

discussion started he had doubted if Government were right in their view that there was a considerable volume of opinion against the proposed change, since speaker after speaker spoke in support of the resolution. Slowly, however, the opposition, though nervous at first, developed quite clearly. It then became clear that the apprehensions of Government were correct. The view already expressed by the Government was that till public feeling, especially in villages, veered round in favour of the reform, Government did not want to sponsor the proposed reform. The speaker was afraid that the progress achieved since then in the State in the direction of educating public opinion on the subject would not justify the Government taking a different view on the question.

Under the existing state of affairs, even ordinary civil rights like that of passing in procession in the public streets were not allowed to be exercised freely in villages, and there had been frequent disturbances of the public peace. Such troubles were not confined to the Panchamas but applied to certain other communities like the Akkasaligas. Government had full sympathy with the reformers. They agreed that the existing practice in certain matters was not very just. Still they had to proceed according to the wishes of the vast majority of the people in matters affecting their social welfare and religious ideas. That was why Government were cautious in dealing with reforms in socio-religious questions.

The resolution under discussion was proposed by the mover to apply only to muzrai temples. There were several private temples in cities and towns and also in villages and the resolution did not make any reference to them. It was difficult to say how the resolution would affect those temples. The speaker said that he was pleased to hear from the mover that in Bangalore a few temples had been thrown open for worship by depressed classes also. He had no doubt that if, similarly, more temples were thrown open to them, the solution of the knotty question of temple entry would become easier.

As regards the muzrai temples, it had to be borne in mind that all of them were not built by Government. Most of them were endowments made in ancient times by private philanthropists and transferred to Government for management in their capacity as trustees. There was a moral as well as legal obligation on the Government to see that those terms were respected. So, it would be neither just nor proper for Government to take the initiative in making any radical change in the time-honoured practices against the intentions of the original donors.

The speaker next referred to the point raised by Mr. Sanjeeviah that the donors had not stipulated against the admission of the depressed classes into the temples. He explained that the worship in those temples had to be conducted according to *Agama Sastras*. The *Agama Sastras* contained a specific injunction against the admission of Panchamas into the temples. So, any deviation from the ritual prescribed therein would be tantamount to going against the terms of the trust.

Government were aware that in certain quarters there was a strong desire for changing the existing practice in the matter of admission of devotees to temples, and the angle of vision in regard to religious questions was also changing gradually. So, Government were not unsympathetic to the question. At the same time, they did not want to rush through any reform. Though popular feeling in the villages might not be altogether in favour of temple entry, there was every possibility of a change of heart in due course, with the spread of education and enlightenment. When such a happy time came, the solution of the question would be very simple. But as matters stood, seeing that in the Assembly itself there was a sharp difference of opinion on the question, he was afraid that it must be more intense in the villages. For these reasons, he said that the policy of Government was not to rush through the question but to proceed with caution.

At this stage, **Mr. T. MARIYAPPA** moved for closure and he was supported by **Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG.**

The closure motion was put to the House and declared carried.

Thereupon, **Mr. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY,** in replying to the debate, observed that the speech of the Muzrai Commissioner was in the same stereotyped strain as on previous occasions and conspicuous by the absence of any fresh argument in it. He drew attention to the statement already made by him while moving the resolution that a change had come over the attitude of the people in the matter of temple entry and he further asserted that if an opportunity had been given for more members to speak on the resolution, the statement made by him would have been fully borne out. Still, the trend of discussion showed that a great majority of the speakers were in favour of the resolution and that outside also there would be more of support than opposition to the question.

As regards the point raised by Mr. Venkatasami Gowda, he observed that simply because, in one stray case, the Adikarnatakas of a village did not respond to a so-called invitation to visit the temple, it did not indicate the general state of affairs. On the other hand, he was in a position to show by facts and figures that at several Harijan conferences, resolutions had been passed urging the higher castes to throw open all temples for the use of the Harijans on an equal footing. Members of both the Houses had supported the question whole-heartedly. The very fact that no kind of protest had been heard anywhere against the resolutions on the subject was enough to indicate the change of heart on the part of the public.

As regards the argument of the opposers that it might disturb public peace and tranquillity, he pointed out that the same argument had been freely expressed at the time of issuing the Government Order throwing open all public schools to depressed class pupils, and that subsequent events had falsified all such apprehensions.

Another argument advanced was to the effect that as a token of good-will, the private residences of the supporters of the reform should first be thrown open to members of the depressed community. The speaker controverted that point by citing the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi, who was the staunchest champion of that community, that the reform did not call for social contacts like inter-dining and inter-marriage of caste-Hindus with the Harijans.

In conclusion, he said that there was not much of opposition to the reform. What was wanted was that the Government should change their attitude in its favour and the House would very much value an assurance from the Government in the matter.

The PRESIDENT replied that the attitude of Government had been just explained in full by the Muzrai Commissioner. As stated by that officer, the Government were not unsympathetic in the matter under discussion, and they had given practical illustration of it on previous occasions. The time was not ripe for introducing a change in the existing practice, and when local opinion favoured the reform, Government would have no objection to throw open the muzrai temples for worship by the depressed classes also. He added that that was the only assurance that could be given by Government in the matter.

On the strength of the above assurance, the resolution was withdrawn.

Resolution No. 6.

Non-official President to the Mysore Representative Assembly.

Mr. K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that it is desirable to have a non-official President to the Mysore Representative Assembly."

In doing so, he said that under the existing constitution the Dewan happened to be the President of the Representative Assembly as well as of the Legislative Council. Besides, he was the President of the Executive Council by virtue of his position as the Head of the Administration. There was thus a correlation between the functions discharged by the Dewan in his three different capacities. Naturally, the views and opinions expressed by the

Dewan in one House were bound to influence the opinions formed by the other House and be reflected in his executive dealings as well. That was certainly not a healthy feature so far as the interests of a purely non-official body like the Representative Assembly were concerned. The Head of the Government should not, as a matter of principle, preside over democratic institutions since he could influence their decisions from the stand-point of the bureaucracy. If that was allowed, he was afraid that very few questions could be disposed of satisfactorily to the general public.

Moreover, the presence of the Dewan in the Assembly in his capacity as its President would be a hindrance not only to free expression of opinion but also to free voting by the members. There were instances in which the influence of the Head of the Government was being brought to bear in furnishing answers to questions. To illustrate his point, the member referred to what had occurred in the Assembly on the previous day when, in connection with an interpellation, even though the Chief Secretary showed an inclination to furnish additional information by referring to the official files, he was prevented by the official President from doing so. If, on the other hand, there was a non-official President, he would have gone into the matter with an open mind and insisted on full information being supplied by the Government's representative on the spot.

Proceeding, the speaker referred to the report of the committee appointed to examine and revise some of the provisions of the Representative Assembly and Legislative Council Regulations and the Rules and Standing Orders framed under them and pointed out that one of the recommendations made therein was that one and the same person should not be allowed to be a member of both the Assembly and the Council. And in support of that recommendation, the argument advanced by the committee was that the views expressed by the member in one House would be but a replica of his views as expressed in the other House. On the same analogy, the speaker argued that it was not desirable that one and the same person should be the President of more than one constitutional body in the State.

Referring, next, to the political evolution of Mysore, **Mr. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA** said that at the time of inaugurating the first Assembly, Dewan Rangacharlu had foreshadowed a time when the Representative Assembly would, in course of time, develop into a full-blown parliament. More than half a century had elapsed since that statement was made by that great statesman of Mysore; and yet, not only had the Assembly not attained that goal but it was as far from it as ever. Sister States like Travancore and Cochin which had inaugurated their legislatures long after Mysore, had provided for elected non-official Deputy Presidents but Mysore was still lagging behind. The British Indian legislatures, both Central and Provincial, had been given the privilege of electing their own non-official Presidents so long ago as 1919. And those Presidents were quite independent of all executive influence and conducted the deliberations in a thoroughly impartial manner. He was sorry that the same provision did not exist in respect of the constitutional bodies in Mysore, and he pointed out that the defect in the Mysore constitution could be rectified only by abolishing the existing system of having an official President.

Another argument advanced by the speaker was that in view of the fact that Mysore was soon going to become a unit of the All-India Federation which was about to be inaugurated, it was essential that the political institutions in Mysore were in no way inferior to those of British India. Otherwise, there would be no significance in representatives of the Mysore State sitting in the Federal Councils on an equal footing with the other units. For these reasons, he said that it was high time that the constitution was changed so as to provide for a non-official President to the Assembly. With these remarks, he appealed to Government to accept the resolution and give effect to it.

In seconding the resolution, **Mr. T. MARIYAPPA** recalled to mind that the Mysore Representative Assembly was inaugurated long before the Legislative Councils in the British Indian Provinces. The original intention of the statesman who inaugurated the Representative Assembly in Mysore was to bring about close contact between the people and the Government and secure authentic expression of public opinion. But though the Assembly was enjoying the privilege of making representations directly to Government and getting them redressed to the extent possible, its status was raised—and that very slightly—only in 1923 when it was given additional privileges. No substantial addition had however been made to its powers since then, and there was nothing to warrant the opinion that the Assembly could influence the decisions of the Government in any way. The member felt that it was high time that the powers of the Assembly were enlarged and towards that end, he urged that it be given the privilege of electing its own non-official President.

Proceeding, the speaker pointed out that Mysore ought to have provided for the elected non-official Presidents on the lines of the Government of India Act of 1929. He was surprised that in spite of the rapid political strides made in the outside world, the Mysore constitution was not suitably altered. The Dewan was still the President of the Assembly. If an opportunity was created for some non-officials to work as Presidents of local assemblies, they would not only acquire the requisite experience of administering the assemblies, but could also equip themselves with political training so necessary for shouldering the future responsibilities foreshadowed under the new All-India Constitution. By extending the privilege asked for in the resolution, Government would be implementing, in part at least, the promise made by them to take the people more and more into confidence and to give them an increasing share in the administration of the State.

Continuing, **Mr. MARIYAPPA** pointed out that in the early Addresses of the present Dewan to the Representative Assembly, special emphasis had been laid to the responsive nature of the Government of Mysore though it might not be called a responsible Government. To his surprise, the speaker said that even that claim was hardly to be found in the latter Addresses, though it was praiseworthy that the Dewan seemed to be hugging to democracy in his utterances. At the same time, it had always been granted that good Government was no substitute for self-government, and he emphasized that, in this view, there could be no justification in having an official President for the Assembly.

Speaking of the existing position of the Assembly, he pointed out that owing to the presence of an official President, the members could not give free expression to their views and even in the matter of voting, they sometimes felt they could not enjoy as much freedom as they were entitled to. Another disadvantage of having the Dewan as the President of the Assembly was evident from the fact that adjournment motions were often disallowed. The speaker was sure that with a non-official President, the position would be better.

For these reasons, he urged that the resolution be accepted and provision made for a non-official President to the Assembly.

At this stage, **Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGIENGAR** rose to a point of order and remarked that the discussion of the resolution by the House was *ultra vires* in that it was opposed to the Representative Assembly Regulation and the rules issued thereunder. Section 4 of the said Regulation laid down that "The Dewan shall *ex officio* be the President of the Assembly." And it was stated in the rules of business [Rule 30, subsection (iv)] that no resolution shall relate to any of the matters referred to in clauses (*a*) to (*d*) and (*f*) of proviso (ii) to Section 9 of the Mysore Legislative Council Regulation. Since the said Section 9 precluded from the purview of the House any matter involving amendments to the provisions of the Representative Assembly Regulation, he contended that the Assembly

was not competent to discuss the resolution in question.

The PRESIDENT observed that it was rather late in the day to raise the point of order, seeing that the discussion on the resolution had gone on for over an hour already. He, however, explained that the point raised by the member had been examined by Government before admitting the resolution, and pointed out that the rule referred to by the previous speaker had been amended to exclude specifically sub-section (*e*). And sub-section (*e*) related to the provisions of the Representative Assembly Regulation. Thus, under the existing Regulation, the Assembly was competent to discuss questions involving an amendment of its own constitution. The objection taken by the member would have been valid if raised in the Legislative Council and not in the Representative Assembly. On these grounds the President ruled that the resolution was in order.

The discussion was thereupon continued.

Mr. H. K. MADIAH, in opposing the resolution, remarked that the manner in which some of the existing non-official Presidents of District Boards had been acquitting themselves in their new role did not infuse in him any enthusiasm about the potentiality of the non-official element in Mysore. He regretted to mention that, with a few rare exceptions, a lot of nepotism was in evidence in every sphere of district board administration, and that in spite of high academical qualifications, one of the non-official Presidents had yet to learn the art of dignified behaviour. All the same, some of them posed as leaders of the non-Brahmin party and in that capacity they were really playing the role of dictators in their respective circles. He was afraid that, if the existing state of affairs continued unchecked, it would not be very long before one section of the non-Brahmin community came to be pitted against another—Lingayet *vs.* Vokkaliga, and so on—ultimately widening the gulf among the different sections of the same community. Under such circumstances, if non-officials were allowed the privilege of presiding over the deliberations of the Assembly, he apprehended that the same unhealthy state of affairs would come to prevail in the Assembly also.

He next referred to the argument of the supporters that with a non-official President, the House would come to enjoy greater freedom in discussion, and pointed out that even with a non-official President of the calibre of Sir Abdur Rahim in the Imperial Legislative Assembly, the non-official members had recently staged a walk-out as a protest against the alleged high-handedness of the President in disallowing certain adjournment motions. In his opinion, that illustration was more than ample to disprove the statement made in support of the resolution that the advent of a non-official President in the Assembly would make for greater freedom. In conclusion, he said that the latest political developments in Spain ought to caution the Government against any surrender of powers as proposed in the resolution.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY endorsed most of the views expressed by the previous speaker and added that there were several advantages in having the Head of the Administration as the President of the Assembly. In the former capacity the Dewan would have gained first-hand knowledge of affairs from the representatives of different interests who could present to him direct the various aspects of each problem coming up for consideration in the Assembly. Such an arrangement was a valuable asset both to the people and to the State. Such an advantage could not be had if the highest officers of the State were to be guided merely by official files.

The House then adjourned for the day to meet again at 8 a.m. on Monday, 2nd November 1936.

SEVENTH DAY.

Monday, 2nd November 1936.

The House reassembled at the Jagan Mohan Palace Pavilion on Monday,